AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of performing real-time communications over a computer data network between at least two users, each of said at least two users being associated with a client system communicably coupled to said computer data network, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a server system communicably coupled to said computer data network, a request for a real-time group action involving a group of users, each user having at least one condition associated therewith, a status of the condition associated with each user being indicative of an availability of the user for participating in the real-time group action, wherein the availability of each user is based at least in part upon a digital indication of an online presence of the respective user;

in a first determining step, in response to the request, determining the status of the condition associated with each user within the group;

in a second determining step, determining whether the real-time group action can be performed based at least in part on the status of the condition associated with each user within the group;

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in a third determining step, in the event the real-time group action cannot be performed based on the status of the condition associated with at least one user within the group, the condition status indicating that the at least one user is unavailable to participate in the real-time group action, determining at least one user to substitute for the at least one unavailable user within the group;

in a fourth determining step, determining the status of the condition associated with each user within the group including the at least one substitute user;

in a fifth determining step, determining whether the real-time group action can be performed based at least in part on the status of the condition associated with each user within the group and the at least one substitute user; and

in a first performing step, in the event the real-time group action can be performed based at least in part on the status of the condition associated with each user within the group and the at least one substitute user, performing the real-time group action.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth determining step-steps and

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the <u>first</u> performing step are responsive to processing of at least one rule.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a request to convene an automated meeting activity.

4.   (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the automated meeting activity is selected from the group consisting of an online meeting, a teleconference, a shared whiteboard, a remote presentation, and a video conference.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the status of the condition associated with each user <u>in the first determining step</u> is responsive to at least one event notification indicating that at least one user is using at least one software program installed on a client system.

6.   (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one event notification indicates that the at least one user is using instant messaging client software installed on the client system.

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7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining at least one user to substitute for the at least one unavailable user within the group in the third determining step includes selecting a user to substitute for the unavailable user.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of determining at least one user to substitute for the at least one unavailable user within the group in the third determining step includes determining whether the selected substitute user agrees to participate in the real-time group action before performing the real-time group action in the first performing step.

9.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including the a step of inviting each user to participate in the real-time group action whether or not at least one of the users is determined to be unavailable for the real-time group action.

10.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including the a step of inviting each user to participate in the real-time group action that is determined to be available for the real-time group action.

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11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving a plurality of requests for a plurality of real-time group actions, and further including, in a sixth determining ~~the~~ step, ~~of~~ determining which one or ones of the real-time group actions are currently in-progress.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving a plurality of requests for a plurality of real-time group actions, and further including, in a sixth determining ~~the~~ step, ~~of~~ determining which one or ones of the real-time group actions are pending based on the availability of the users.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving step includes receiving a plurality of requests for a plurality of real-time group actions, and further including, in a sixth determining ~~the~~ step, ~~of~~ determining which one or ones of the real-time group actions are ready to be performed based on the availability of the users.

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14.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including
~~the~~ a step of defining the group of users to participate in the real-time group action.

15.   (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the defining step includes determining a time for the real-time group action to be performed in the first performing step.

16.   (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the defining step ~~of~~ includes determining the time for the real-time group action to be performed in the first performing step ~~includes~~ by checking respective calendars of the users within the group.

17.   (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further including, in a sixth determining ~~the~~ step, ~~of~~ determining whether or not each respective user within the group accepts being included in the group before performing the real-time group action in the first performing step.

18.   (currently amended) The method of claim 17 further including ~~the~~ a step of adding the respective user to the group ~~in the event~~ if the user accepts being included in the group.

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19.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including

~~the~~ a step of requesting the real-time group action via a client

computer having software installed thereon operative to facilitate

the performance of real-time communications between at least two

users in the first performing step.

20.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including

~~the~~ a step of requesting the real-time group action via a web

page.

21.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including

~~the~~ a step of requesting the real-time group action via a

telephone.

22.   (currently amended) A system for performing real-time

communications between at least two users, comprising:

a computer data network;

a plurality of client systems communicably coupled to said

computer data network, each of said plurality of client systems

being associated with a respective one of said at least two users;

and

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at least one server system communicably coupled to said

computer data network, said at least one server system including

at least one processor—, and at least one computer program

storage memory communicably coupled to the processor, the computer

storage memory including at least one computer program executable

by the processor,

the computer program including

first program code for receiving a request for a real-time

group action involving a group of users, each user having at least

one condition associated therewith, a status of the condition

associated with each user being indicative of an availability of

the user for participating in the real-time group action, wherein

the availability of each user is based at least in part upon a

digital indication of an online presence of the respective user,

second program code for determining the status of the

condition associated with each user within the group in response

to the request,

third program code for determining whether the real-time

group action can be performed based at least in part on the status

of the condition associated with each user within the group,

fourth program code for determining at least one user to

substitute for the at least one unavailable user within the group

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in the event the real-time group action cannot be performed based

on the status of the condition associated with at least one user

within the group, the condition status indicating that the at

least one user is unavailable to participate in the real-time

group action,

fifth program code for determining the status of the

condition associated with each user within the group including the

at least one substitute user,

sixth program code for determining whether the real-time

group action can be performed based at least in part on the status

of the condition associated with each user within the group and

the at least one substitute user, and

seventh program code for performing the real-time group

action in the event the real-time group action can be performed

based at least in part on the status of the condition associated

with each user within the group and the at least one substitute

user.

23. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the second

program code for determining the status of the condition

associated with each user within the group, the third program code

for determining whether the real-time group action can be

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performed based at least in part on the status of the condition associated with each user within the group, the _fourth_ program code for determining at least one user to substitute for the at least one unavailable user within the group, the _fifth_ program code for determining the status of the condition associated with each user within the group including the at least one substitute user, the _sixth_ program code for determining whether the real-time group action can be performed based at least in part on the status of the condition associated with each user within the group and the at least one substitute user, and the _seventh_ program code for performing the real-time group action, are responsive to the processing of at least one rule.

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